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PATENT APPLICATION

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 2871

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yasunori OGAWA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2871

Application No.: 09/598,268

Examiner: P. Akkapeddi

Filed: June 21, 2000

Docket No.: 106187

For: LIQUID CRYSTAL DEVICE AND PROJECTOR USING THE SAME

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action mailed November 19, 2002, reconsideration of the
above-application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are pending.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent
No. 5,969,832 to Nakanishi et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,835,179 to Yamanaka. This
rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action recognizes that Yamanaka does not disclose that the entrance side
substrate portion has a thickness greater than the exit side substrate portion. Applicants
respectfully disagree the Office Action's assertion that it would have been obvious to
combine the features of Nakanishi to provide the deficiencies of Yamanaka. MPEP §2141
provides that the references must be considered as a whole must suggest the desirability and
thus the obviousness of making the combination. Furthermore, the references must be
viewed without the benefit of impermissible hindsight vision afforded by the claimed
invention. Yamanaka is concerned with dissipating heat generated in the liquid crystal

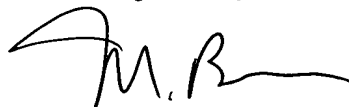
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display. In the invention of claims 1, 5, 7 and 11, the thickness T_i of the entrance side substrate portion 101 is set to be larger than the thickness T_o of the exit side substrate portion 102 because light condensed by the microlens 113a impinge upon the liquid crystal layer 1-3 and the light emitted from the liquid crystal layer 103 diverges due to the action of microlens 113a. See e.g., specification at page 6, lines 25 through page 7, line 8. Yamanaka does not disclose or suggest this feature. Because Yamanaka does not recognize the problem to be solved by the invention, there can be no motivation or suggestion to combine the features of Nakanishi with Yamanaka.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Michael Britton
Registration No. 47,260

JAO:MB/gam

Date: February 19, 2003

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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